DC

22

POISON IVY™

WILSON
HAINING
PRIANTO

13+
TEEN

FLORO AND FAUNA

DAWN OF DC

HOUSE OF BRAINIAC

IT'S SUPERMAN VS. LOBO AS THE SUPERMAN ACTION COMICS & SUPERMAN CROSSOVER CONTINUES!

WRITTEN BY JOSHUA WILLIAMSON

ART BY RAFA SANDOVAL & MIGUEL MENDONÇA

SUPERMAN #14 COVER BY RAFA SANDOVAL

DC

MAY

FOLLOW ALONG WITH MONTH TWO OF THE THREE-MONTH EPIC!

PART 3:

ACTION COMICS #1065

TIE-IN:

GREEN LANTERN #11

PART 4:

SUPERMAN #14

TIE-IN:

POWER GIRL #9

ACTION COMICS #1065

GREEN LANTERN #11

POWER GIRL #9

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I thought I knew what PAIN was.

THIS DEFIANCE OF YOURS IS RIDICULOUS. YOU CAN BARELY STAND.

I'VE WON, PAMELA. THE LAMIA GIVES ME DOMINION OVER ALL LIFE. IF WE CAN'T SAVE THIS PLANET, WE CAN RULE THE ASHES.

Now I know there are kinds of pain I don't even have words for.

I THOUGHT THAT GUY WAS DEAD.

SOLOMON GRUNDY.

GOOD POINT.

And worse than the pain is knowing what will happen to the people I care about if Woodrue wins.

I CAN STAND HERE ALL DAY, AND AS MANY DAYS AFTER THAT AS I HAVE TO.

IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES TO PROTECT THE REST OF THE PLANET FROM YOU.

For a minute, I **allow** myself to **hope** he won't call my **bluff.**

CAN YOU? CAN YOU *REALLY?*

LET'S FIND OUT IF IT'S TRUE *TOGETHER,* SHALL WE?

But that dream dies **fast.**

GO INSIDE. LOCK THE *DOOR.*

DON'T OPEN UP FOR *ANYONE.* INCLUDING *ME.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT *YOU?* YOU CAN'T FIGHT HIM *ALONE--*

RELAX, JANET-FROM-HR.

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU CUT DOWN A WEED, IT ALWAYS GROWS BACK.

YOU THINK YOU'RE SO CLEVER, PAMELA.

YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD A MUCH HIGHER OPINION OF YOUR OWN ABILITIES THAN ANYBODY ELSE EVER HAD.

BUT YOU'LL ALWAYS BE A VAPID LITTLE GIRL TRYING TO GET EXTRA CREDIT FROM TEACHER.

NOT A REAL SCIENTIST. AND NOT A WANNABE HERO WHO THINKS SHE CAN STAND IN MY WAY.

He says these things to make me freeze up. I remember this feeling.

HRAAAH!

And this time, I freeze a second too long.

AAAH!

FLUTO

JANET!

NO!

HELP MEEEEEE!

WOOSH

LET HER GO!

ALL THIS PANIC OVER A NOBODY?

PATHETIC. WHEN DID THE CRIMINALS OF GOTHAM DEVELOP MORAL PRINCIPLES?

Ohmy gosh--

AAAH!

JANET!

SOLOMON GRUNDY.

AAAAH!

THMP

Ohmygod, I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO *DIE*... Th-THANK YOU...

BORN ON A MONDAY.

REE!

...Huh?

GRAAH!

...*DIED* ON SATURDAY.

SKREE!

OUR CHILDREN, PAMELA.

DESPITE ALL YOUR DISOBEDIENCE, WE'VE FINALLY DONE WHAT WE SET OUT TO DO.

EACH ONE OF THESE CREATURES IS ANIMATED BY SOMETHING I CREATED AND YOU EVOLVED INSIDE YOURSELF.

AND NOW, LIKE REBELLIOUS TEENAGERS, THEY'RE ABOUT TO TURN ON THEIR MOTHER.

GET INSIDE THE SHACK, NOW!

My children.

HNNNGH!

KRAAA!

One day I would like to grow something that doesn't end in horror.

Something that isn't tainted by all **this.**

By **Woodrue.**

He thinks he knows **everything** about me.

SNAK

But he **can't** see the whole tapestry of **life** on **Earth.**

He doesn't **understand** the **GREEN.**

SPARK

?

UK?

HRG?

Which means I can draw on **POWER** his **LIMITED IMAGINATION** can't even **COMPREHEND.**

YOU WANT A *FIGHT?*

THEN LET'S *FIGHT!*

I DON'T SEE NOTHIN'.

MAYBE THEY DECIDED TO *TALK IT OUT.*

MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE HUNTING SHACK.

I CAN'T EVEN *LOOK!*

KRAASH

AAAAH!

AAAAAH!

STAY AWAY FROM US, YA SLIMY LITTLE BOOGER--

SPAAX

...

HNNNGH!

FLING

HRAAH!

GRUNDY!

I'M GONNA NEED A LITTLE HELP!

Th--there's *too many* of them--

SOLOMON GRUNDY.

BORN ON A *MONDAY.*

KREEA AAAK

CHRISTENED... ON... *TUESDAY...*

HE *AIN'T* GONNA BE ABLE TA HOLD THAT *MESS* BACK FOR *LONG.*

WHAT DO WE DO?!

DON'T WORRY, JANET-FROM-HR. WE'LL BE OKAY.

US LOWLIFES ALWAYS *ARE* IN THE END.

WEIRDLY, I... I *BELIEVE* YOU.

IT'S FUNNY... WITH THE *WORLD* BEING THE WAY IT *IS* NOW... *HEROES* DON'T MAKE ME FEEL *SAFE* ANYMORE.

THERE ARE *SO MANY* THINGS A *HERO* CAN'T *STOP*...

...THAT IT'S THE *MONSTERS* WHO MAKE ME FEEL *SAFEST*.

AAAAUUGH!

IVY?!

OH NO--

HEY! STAY *AWAY* FROM ANYTHIN' THAT *OPENS!*

Please be *okay*.

Does the **GREEN** hear our **prayers**? Is it **that** kind of **deity**?

I don't actually know the **answer.** But I **do** know **everything** that's ever been **inside** of us leaves **traces** of itself.

Viruses. Bacteria. **Fungi.**

Connecting us to each other. Telling our **stories** through the **puzzles** in our **DNA.**

Illness, stress, hunger... it all **lives on** in our **bodies.**

You know the phrase "I feel it in my bones"? Well, it's **true.**

-Gasp!-

Hmm?

Our bones **speak.**

We **listen** without even **realizing** what we **hear.**

That **little voice** inside you comes from something **real.**

MEANWHILE.

And it's **stronger** than you **think.**

WHAT IS THE ***POINT*** OF THIS?!

YOU ONCE SAID YOU'D GIVE ***ANYTHING*** TO ADVANCE MY EXPERIMENTS.

WHY ARE YOU ***FIGHTING*** ME?

NNGH--

BECAUSE YOU'RE A ***FRAUD***--

GGHHH!

--AND I WON'T LET YOU ***HURT*** ANYONE ***ELSE*** EVER ***AGAIN***--

DO YOU EVER GET TIRED OF THESE PARLOR TRICKS?

AAAHH!

KOOOSH

HNNNGH!

As a matter of fact, I do. I miss having complete dominion over all plant life.

But if I've learned anything over the past year...

...it's that there are many kinds of power.

And the softest kinds...

...are the **hardest** for your **enemies** to **fight.**

WHAT IN THE--

--WHERE *IS* SHE?

I'm some-where he can't **hurt** me.

Spreading out along the **mycelium network.**

Free.

I could just **leave** now. Slip through the **swamp** and **start again** somewhere **else,** like I've done **so many** times **before.**

But I can't let him **win.**

I **can't** let him go on believing he's **right** about the world.

Or about ME.

HUH?!

BLOOM

YOU NEVER LOOK HAPPY TO SEE ME, PROFESSOR.

WHY IS THAT?

NNGH!

WHACK

AFTER ALL, IF I'M JUST A BRAINLESS TEACHER'S PET, YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO FEAR.

OH, I'M NOT AFRAID, PUPIL OF MINE.

I'M JUST DISAPPOINTED. DISAPPOINTED YOU WON'T BE AROUND TO ENJOY THE FRUITS OF YOUR LABOR.

How long do you suppose he sat around thinking up that **pun?**

HNNH?

It's **difficult,** after having spent your young adult life **idolizing** someone, to realize that beneath the **genetically altered** plant-hybrid **zombie lord** is a **complete loser.**

But it doesn't matter.

Because as he **said--**

--I am their **MOTHER.**

And when I give a **command,** they will **listen.**

YOU'RE **WRONG,** JASON.

YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT **ME,** AND YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT **THIS.**

THE **WILD STRAIN** EVOLVED IN **ME** BEFORE IT **ESCAPED.** YOU CAN'T **CONTROL** IT.

BUT I CAN.

WAIT--

NNGH!

STOP-- STOP IT!

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH!

THIS IS USELESS, PAMELA. DOOMED.

YOU'LL NEVER DEFEAT ME--

--I BRED THE LAMIA. ME. WILD STRAIN OR NO, I CAN CONTROL IT--

--WHEREAS YOU, WITH YOUR LITTLE SEEDLINGS AND PHEROMONES, STRUGGLED TO CONTAIN IT, AND NEVER UNDERSTOOD IT--

...DAMN.

I HAVE TRANSCENDED THE CAGE OF THE HUMAN BODY!

I AM IMMORTAL!

AAAH!

Back and forth. Attack and repel.

It's **never** going to **end.**

He will **always** be with me... my creator, my **NEMESIS.**

Unless...

Y-YOU'RE **RIGHT,** JASON...

...I **NEVER** FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE LAMIA. IT...NEARLY **KILLED** ME.

IT'S... THE PRODUCT OF THE **POISON** INSIDE BOTH OF US... IT...CANNOT **CREATE,** IT CAN ONLY **DESTROY...**

...WHICH IS WHY I'M ORDERING OUR **CHILDREN** TO KILL US **BOTH.**

...NOT LIKE THIS.

PAMELA... YOU WOULDN'T... YOU WOULDN'T DARE...

HNNGH!

I CAN'T-- I CAN'T STOP IT IF THEY ATTACK US BOTH--

--THEY'RE TOO STRONG--

But I would dare.

WE ARE THE GREEN.

DC COMICS PRESENTS:

POISON IVY

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO.

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If my life is the price I have to pay to remove Woodrue from the face of the Earth...

...so be it.

NEXT: YOU AGAIN

CELEBRATE ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH WITH THESE DC VARIANT COVERS!

ACTION COMICS #1065
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DC AAPI HERITAGE MONTH

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

bad dream

A DREAMER STORY

INTERVIEW WITH NICOLE MAINES

Nicole Maines not only originated the role of Dreamer in live action on the *Supergirl* TV series, she's brought the character into comic books through writing and co-writing a series of stories starring Nia Nal in the pages of *DC Pride*, *Superman: Son of Kal-El*, and the currently unfolding four-issue series *Suicide Squad: Dream Team*. In *Bad Dream: A Dreamer Story*, she teams with artist Rye Hickman to take Dreamer back to her teen years in a DC young adult graphic novel. DC Nation sat down with Maines to learn more about her process of exploring Dreamer's origin story.

Why did you want to tell this story as a young adult graphic novel?

This whole process started in early 2020—pre-world-shutdown 2020. I went into the DC offices to pitch them a Dreamer ongoing, having never written anything before. They humored me, we got through the whole meeting, and they said, "We love that. We have this young adult line, and we don't have a story about sisters." I was like, "Well...Dreamer has a sister! We could do something with that!"

But I was nervous, because I had no inkling of what I would want to do for a young adult novel. Then the pandemic hit, so I ended up having a lot of time to think about it. It became my pandemic project, and it's been in the works ever since. I'm very excited for people to see it.

Clearly, Dreamer is a character you're exceptionally close to—what did you learn about her in the process of telling this origin story?

This was the first time we had seen Nia as a young person. She's 15, growing up—it was the first opportunity we had to show why she's the way she is, what her unique challenges were growing up. I got to play around with her fear, her insecurity, and her fragility—all the things she is before ever becoming a cool, powerful, joke-cracking superhero.

What excited you most about what Rye Hickman brought to the story?

I was constantly blown away every time we'd get pages back. One of the most amazing things was the dream sequences we have in the book—these beautiful two-page spreads. I was like, "Hey, I pulled a bunch of dream symbolism and this and that—can you create this?" And they did it. And I don't know how they did it. Because I know I didn't make any sense. But Rye, you did that.

BAD DREAM: A DREAMER STORY IS ON SALE NOW!

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